



# NOTES FROM THE RANGE

December 24, 2013



**Tune in for the  
2014 State of the State  
address to the Kansas  
Legislature**

**6:30 p.m., Wednesday,  
Jan. 15, 2014.**

**The 132nd State of the State  
address will be televised live  
by KPTS-TV and other  
Kansas television and radio  
stations.**

## Wishing everyone a safe and merry Christmas

Christmas is a special time of year, when we gather together as families and renew old friendships.

At this time of year in particular, I encourage everyone to reach out to those in need; extend a helping hand to someone; or reconnect with someone you haven't spoken to in a long time.

I also ask you remember those who are without their families as they serve the United States in far-off places. They serve so that we may enjoy the holidays free from danger and fear.

On behalf of myself, Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, and our families, we wish you a holiday season that is filled with joy and contentment.

God Bless and Merry Christmas.

## Kansas is on a path to prosperity

2013 was a good year for Kansas with record revenue and the lowest unemployment rate since December 2008.

Our November unemployment rate of 5.1% is the lowest we've seen since 2008. We have seen more than 20,000 new jobs created this year and a total 45,600 new jobs created from January 2011 through October 2013.

We also enjoyed record revenue generation of \$6.3 Billion as across-the-board tax relief put more of your money in your pockets.

Sound fiscal management means that we have the financial resources to make strategic investments in education and public safety that benefit all Kansans.

## Pictures From the Road



The Kansas Christmas Tree Growers Association once again provided the State Christmas Tree.



Congratulations MLS Champions Sporting KC!  
Enjoying the match with my daughter Jenna.



Major General Tafarielli and Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer with an official at one of the memorial events in Armenia



Thanks to everyone who engaged in a spirit of giving this Christmas.

## Lt. Governor marks milestone anniversary in Armenia

In 1988, two earthquakes measuring 6.9 and 5.8 in magnitude, rattled Armenia killing tens of thousands of people.

Armenia was then part of the former Soviet Union and political realities made any offer of assistance a challenging one.

In a historic move the Soviet Union accepted offers of help from the U.S. and international community. Dr. Jeff Colyer found himself among a team of rescuers treating earthquake victims in the ravaged country.

Twenty-five years later, Dr. Colyer once again found himself in Armenia, this time accompanied by Major General Lee Tafarielli, Adjutant General of Kansas.

Dr. Colyer and Gen. Tafarielli participated in events marking the 25th anniversary of the earthquake and celebrating the 10th anniversary of its partnership with the State of Kansas and Kansas National Guard through the Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

The Lt. Governor spoke at a conference on "Public Awareness as a Cornerstone for Disaster Risk Reduction" hosted by the Armenian Ministry of Emergency Situations, recognizing the great strides they have made in emergency preparedness.